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T H E

Distillery of SCOTLAND

A

NATIONAL BENEFIT;

A N D

The IMPORTATION and Use of
FOREIGN SPIRITS,

A

NATIONAL DETRIMENT

DEMONSTRATE

In a LETTER to a FRIEND.

A B E R D E E N :

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M.DCC.LV.



NATIONAL DETRIMENT

The Importance and Use of
Foreign Literature

NATIONAL DETRIMENT

In a Letter to a Friend

ADER DEER
Gives J. C. ...
M.D.C.C.L.V.

Dear Sir :

WHEN I was lately at *Edinburgh*, you asked my opinion of a Question then in dispute among sundry Gentlemen there ; *Whether the Distillery of Scotland was a National Profit or Loss ?*

All I then ventured to say, was, I believed it was a *National Profit* ; but being from home, could not fully answer the Question : however, I promised that howsoon I returned home, and could sufficiently inform myself of the necessary *Data*, I should send you my thoughts upon that Subject.

The *Data* I have established, are these, *viz.*

That nearly 50,000 Bolls of Bear is at present the consumpt of the whole Distillery of *Scotland*. This *per* the excise Books.

That 25 Bolls of said Bear usually produces 252 Gallons, = one Ton of proof Spirits ; and consequently, the total produce is nearly 504,000 Gallons *English*, = 2,000 Tons. But,

That a skilful *London* Distiller will engage, from a Boll of 17 Stone *Amsterdam* (which *Scotch* Barley and Bear, taken at a *Medium* throughout the Kingdom, it is thought, will amount to *per* Boll) to produce 16 Gallons of proof Spirits ; consequently, 50,000 Bolls, skilfully managed, might be made to produce 800,000 Gallons, = 3,174 Tons, 152 Gallons *English*.

That the Excise of 50,000 Bolls malted, at 1s. 6d. <i>per</i> Boll is	ster. £. 3750	} = l. 18,450
That the Excise of 504,000 Gallons Whisky distilled, at 7d. <i>per</i> Gallon, is	14,700	

That, by the printed Tables of the *Fiars* of *Mid-Lothian* for 39 Years, *viz.* from 1715 to 1753 *inclusive*, the *Medium* Prices were,

Barley	1st sort, or best,	ster. £. 6 16
	2d, or blend,	5 13 9 ⁶ / ₈
	3d, or rough,	5 4 3 ³ / ₈

consequently, the *Medium* Price of the whole, was l. 5. 17. 11¹/₂ *Scots* = nearly to £. 0 9 10 *sterl.* *per* Boll, *Lithgow* Measure, of 31 *Scots* Pints *per* Firlot.

That by an Account of *Fiars* for the City of *Aberdeen* taken for 30 Years, *viz.* from 1720 to 1749 *inclusive*, I find the *Medium* Price was l. 0. 10. 5 *sterl.* *per* Boll, containing 34 *Scots* Pints *per* Firlot.

A

That

That the *Medium* Price of Bear in the Town of *Montrose*, (which is probably the cheapest Market in *Scotland*, where any considerable Quantity is to be bought) as appeared by the Books of a considerable *Dealer*, taken for 7 Years, 1744 to 1750 *inclusive*, was £. 5. 3. 4 *Scots*, = £. 0. 8. 7 $\frac{1}{3}$ *sterl.* per Boll, of 32 *Scots* Pints per Firloot.

That probably about *Glasgow* and the *Western Counties*, the Price of Barley and Bigg, at a *Medium* may exceed any of the above, but in how much I am not sufficiently informed: however, I believe we are pretty near the Truth, if, for calculations sake, we suppose (take the *Kingdom* in the general) that the *Medium* Price of the *Lithgow* Boll is £. 0. 10. 0 *ster.* per Boll, and that said Boll does at present produce 10 $\frac{2}{5}$ Gallons Proof Spirits; but by more skilful Management, might be made to produce 16 Gallons of said Spirits.

By the best Intelligence I can procure, (which indeed is no worse than the original Books of the *Importers*,) I find, that at the Ports of *L' Croisic* on the *Loire*, for *Nantes Brandies*, and at *St. Martins* in the *Isle of Ré*, the Prices for seven Years were as under, *viz.*

In the Year		Livres	per Hhd. of
1749	It cost at a <i>Med.</i>	112	32 vertiles =
50	_____	95	64 Gallons
51	_____	132	English
52	_____	160	nearly.
53	_____	136	
54	_____	60	
55	_____	68	
7 Years	<i>i. e.</i> 7 Hhds. said time cost	l. 763	= l. 109 per Hhd. at a <i>Med.</i>

The *Medium* exchange of the *French* Crown of three Livres for said Time, has with Charges fully been 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ *ster.* consequently, the Hoghead stood of prime Cost, £. 4. 15. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *ster.* But the royal Duties and shipping charges are about *Liv.* 130 per Ton, = *Liv.* 32. 10. 0 per Hoghead, = £. 1. 8. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ *ster.* consequently, each Hoghead, for said Time has really cost, all paid in *France*, £. 6. 3. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ *sterl.* = 23. 5. per *English* Gallon.

By the same Intelligence, the *Rotterdam* Prices of Brandies, mostly imported high Proof, from *Cette* in *Languedoc*, and afterwards dashed down there; and of their own common
Dutch

Dutch Gin, (for I don't include *Collen Gin* which comes much higher) for ten Years past, have been as under, viz.

<i>Annis</i>	<i>Brandy per Ankr.</i> of 10galls. nearly	gil	ft	dw	<i>Gin per Ankr.</i> of 10galls nea.	gil	ft	dw
1746	cost	12	—	—	cost	8	—	—
47	—	13	—	—	—	8	10	—
48	—	16	10	—	—	10	—	—
49	—	11	—	—	—	8	—	—
50	—	10	10	—	—	7	10	—
51	—	15	10	—	—	7	5	—
52	—	17	—	—	—	7	10	—
53	—	14	—	—	—	7	5	—
54	—	10	—	—	—	7	10	—
55	—	09	—	—	—	7	—	—
10 years	gild.	128	10	—	<i>Medium exch.</i> 22 d. per gild.	78	10	—

Consequent- } g. 12. 17
ly Dutch } 22
Brandies } —

264
19.

— s. d.

12) 283 (23. 7
per Anker =

= 28. 3 d. per Gallon

French do. }
as above } = 23. 5 per. do.
was }

Consequent- } g. 7. 17
ly Dutch } 22
common Gin } —

154
19

— s. d.

12) 173 (14 5
per Anker =

= 17. 3 per Gallon.

By inspection into my own *American Accounts* for the Years 1735, 6, 7, when I resided there, and dealt a little in *Leeward Island Rum*, I find that then the lowest proofed *Barbadoes* came at 10 d. per Gallon *Sterling*. The highest proofed *St. Kitt's* at 18 d. per Gallon; 'twixt which two extremes, or about 14 d. *Sterling* per Gallon, all of the *Leeward Island* produce then run at.

French Martinico, and *Dutch Surinam Rums*, (both bad) might then have been bought at about 8 d. per; and I have been informed sometimes at 6 d. per Gallon.

The *Spanish* Inhabitants of *America* distill little but for their own use, which they rectify very high in small earthen Stills ; it is exceeding strong, often a little Still-burnt, and comes dearer, then by tasting I thought it deserved : With this, these *Castilianos* under the line, undiluted wash down an *Olio* of *Pepperpot* ; and when they thus dine, which I have been well informed many of them do, you'll think them fit to sup with Mr. *Powel* the *Fire-eater*, or rather with the Inhabitants of a yet warmer *Region*.

Jamaica Rum is surely the best Spirit of *America*, (*Barbadoes* and *Martinico* Citron excepted, such of it I mean as the *English* and *French Ladies* distill themselves for *Closet use*, that indeed I believe is the most delicious *Poison* on Earth) and let *Jamaica* Merchants talk of very high Prices given for Rums of an imaginary superior *Quality* and *Flavour*, (such as I lately tasted at your Lodgings) but if the Spirit be strong, and have no bad taste, I am of opinion that the *Nut-taste* and the agreeable *Flavour* may easily be added after Importation ; and such a Spirit as I mean, may, I believe, at this time be had in *Jamaica* for 3 s. *Currency sterl.* or about 2 s. *sterl. per* Gallon. *Leeward Island* Rums may be altered in *Quality* and *Price* since the Time I mention, and what they are at present I do not know.

There yet remains another produce of the *American* Stills, commonly known by the Name of *New-England* or *Rhode-Island* Rum ; but surely our *Legislators*, either in the Laws of the *Customs* or *Excise*, never meant this Spirit when they used the word Rum. It is drawn from Part *Malosses*, the *skimmings of Boilers*, the *bilidge Water of Sugar* and *Rum load Ships*, *Ground Indian Corn*, &c. mixed up with some Rum of the highest Still-burnt Hogoo : This is an evil Spirit indeed, a Compound of more then *seven Devils* !

However, when imported, it is very proper to mix up *English Brandies* with, to be sold to the Ignorant at a low Price, under the Name of *Rum* ; and thus cooked, it will make the users as *drunk*, and as *sick*, as any Spirit whatsoever.

Arrack of Batavia, sometimes costs in *Holland*, 10 s. *ster. per* Gallon, and of *Gaa*, it is sometimes sold in *Lisbon*, at 3 s. *per* Gallon.

Thus you have all the common Spirits I know, with their respective Prices, brought in Contrast with our own *Scotch Whisky*.

By

By inspection into the Books of one of the most considerable Dealers in Corn in the Place where I presently live, and taking the *Medium* Prices of all he purchased in the respective Years under-mentioned (as I above said) with his *Medium* sales annexed, I found them as under ; for since 1750, there has been no considerable Export, except this present Spring, of which no sales are as yet received.

Scots.					Scots.				
Cropt		£.	sh.	d.	Sold in, prod.	£.	sh.	d.	
1744	cost	5	—	—	In Norway —	4	16	—	
45	—	5	13	4	No export —	—	—	—	
46	—	5	11	6	In Gottenburgh -	6	—	—	
47	—	5	4	2	In do. —	6	8	—	
48	—	5	13	—	In do. —	6	12	—	
49	—	4	11	9	In Norway —	4	8	—	
50	—	4	9	6	In do. —	2	14	—	
7 yea.		£.	136	3 3		£.	130	18 —	
med. price		5	3	4	Medium sales	5	3	—	

From this *l.* 5. 3s. the *Medium* produce, 6d. per Boll ought to be deducted as a reasonable Freight to any of the Ports of *Norway, Sweden, Hamburgh, &c.* which reduces the Price when considered as a *National produce* to *l.* 4 17s. per Boll. But when considered by the Merchant as his private gain, he has to add to this, 22½d. ster. the Bounty he receives for the exportation of each Boll of 32 *Scotch* Pints per Firlot ; which, Freight being paid as above, augments his real produce to *l.* 5. 19s. 6d. per Boll, and consequently the Merchant mentioned, had at least, 16s. 2d. Scots of Profit at a *Medium*, upon each Boll he dealt in and exported, as above, in said seven Years. The above goes upon the supposition that equal Quantities were bought and exported in each respective Year ; but as it is probable, that the greater Quantity would be exported in these Years wherein it gives the best Price abroad, his Profit upon the whole may a little exceed the above calculation, and but a little, as it is a Commodity that will not long keep up for a Market.

As all the *Data* necessary to the answering the proposed *Question*, are established by information pretty certain, let us now for the clearer conception of it, and its answer, suppose one general *Distiller*, and one general *Corn-merchant* and *Foreign-Spirit Dealer* for the whole Kingdom. Let

Let *Albert Bung* be the *general Distiller* for *Scotland*, and *Charles Dealer* be the *general Corn-merchant*; and at the same Time, a successful *Smuggler*: one who never falls into the Hands of the *Harpies* of the *Revenue*, as these worthy *Gentlemen* are pleased to call us.

Albert buys up 50,000 Bolls of Bear in different Parts of the Kingdom, which at a *Medium* costs him *l. 25,000 sterl.* This, his unexperienced Servants malts, (altho', by the bye, I believe they are under no necessity to malt it all, as Part of it would distil perhaps as well unmalted, but I suppose them not able *Artists*) and then they distil it into no more than 504,000 Gallons of Whisky, worth *2s. 8d. ster. per Gallon*, with *permit*: I suppose Mr. *Bung* a conscientious Dealer with all Men, even with *Cæsar*, and that he pays the last penny of Excise; and thus I state his Account.

Distillery Dr.	Sterl.			Pr. contra	Cr	Sterl.		
Prime cost of	£.	s.	d.	By gross sales		£.	s.	d.
Bear —	25,000	—	—	of 504,000				
Malt Duty -	3,750	—	—	galls. whis-				
Excise on spi-				ky, sold at				
rits —	14,700	—	—	2s. 8d. per				
Ball. for the				Gallon		67,283	6	8
charges of la-								
bour & profit.	23,833	6	8					
	£. 67,283, 6 8					£. 67,283 6 8		

By doing thus, *Albert* is under no fear of his Servants turning *Informers*, neither is he any ways obliged to wink at their *Neglect*, *Intemperance* or *Knavery*, by which Articles I have heard some *Distillers*, have lost more the one way than they ever saved the other; and consequently he has, at least needs have, no embezzlement of his Liquors, &c.

How much of this last Sum may be the real *Charges* of labour, and how much of it may be rationally esteemed the neat *Profit*, you can much better judge than I can. May we not for *Albert's* sake, suppose *£. 6,000* at least, being not full 10 *per Cent.* upon the Sum dealt in. However, possessed of this moderate gain, honest Mr. *Bung* sleeps sound with a quiet Conscience, disturbed neither with *smuggling Vigils*, nor fears of the *Nick-Court*; neither is he under any necessity

ty of paying servile Duties to any of the neighbouring *Justices*. Mr. *Whitestaff* the *Excise-man* and he, live together in great Harmony, and, once a Month perhaps, crack a friendly Bottle together.

Honest *Albert* dies at last, and *Charles* the *Merchant*, he undertakes to supply the Country with better Drink from *France* and *Frogland*. He boldly tells the landed Gentleman, be in no pain about the sale of your Farms; you shall suffer nothing by the death of *Bung* and all his Posterity: I'll buy up your 50,000 Bolls of Bear at a good Price, as we can agree, and I'll export it for you. Your Honour shall drink right *Jamaica*, from our own Colonies, upon *Holidays*, a Sneaker of true *Batavia*, My Lady shall have some right *Nantz*, and *Hab* the *Miller* shall never want a Cup of genuine *Gin*, all at reasonable Rates. For the Bear these c——d Distilleries consume, will well clear all prime Cost Scores abroad, and encourage our own *Navigation*, for you know I always wished well to my Country; only let all Hands stand by, and assist me effectually to bilk these Dogs of the *Customs* and *Excise*; which if you do, we shall drink and be merry: you shall never want Money, and a Fig for their d——nd *Whisky* and the *Laws*.

Now, let us see how *Charles* will be able to perform this promise. And the better to enable him to do it, I'll suppose that none of his Goods are ever seized, but that sometimes his Ceggs will be *broached*, and sometimes quite *stolen* away, I believe neither he nor we will ever be able to prevent. For unluckily, the Men who are surely the fittest to assist on these Occasions, should be such as have every Trace of *natural* as well as of *revealed Religion* quite obliterate, else they are not thoroughly qualified to obviate some *Rubs* that may come in their way; and in such *Hands*, with a proper *Opportunity*, I am apt to think the *Ankers* are in some Danger.

However, to supply the loss of the 504,000 Gallons *Whisky*, we shall suppose, *Charles* the first Year Imports,

4,000	Batavia Arrack, <i>medium</i> price, 8s. per Gallon	£.	1,600		
20,000	Rum from <i>Jamaica</i> directly at 2s 6d. is		2,500		
80,000	Rum <i>viâ Holland</i> at 20 gls. per Anker, or 44 d. per Gallon; for I assure you the <i>Dutch</i> Merchant will make him pay Warehouse Rent, &c.		14,666	13	4
50,000	<i>French</i> Brandy at 23. 5 } = nearly 26d. per gal.				
50,000	<i>D° viâ Holland</i> at 28. 3 } at a <i>medi.</i>		10,833	6	8
300,000	Gin for the lower People at 17. 3 d. per Gallon, is		21,625		
504,000	Gallons imported, which cost abroad	£.	51,225		

But in order to make up the full Number of Gallons for sale, at least $\frac{1}{10}$ more of each sort must be bought abroad, to answer the common *leakage* and *embezzlement*: and I fancy this won't be esteemed an over calculation by such as know any thing of this Trade. This Tenth must cost

About 50,400 sixteen pences must be paid for the transportation of so many Ankers from <i>France</i> and <i>Holland</i> in the Gross —	3,333	6	8
Shipping Charges, &c. we shall call 8d. per Anker	1,666	13	4
	£.	61,347	10

There yet remains the running-charges, in order to place the above in some tolerable safety, although it cannot be placed in such safety as old *Albert's Whisky* was, while there is one honest *Excise-man* in Commission in the Nation. I hope, *Charles* and his Brethren will not be offended, or

Brought

Brought forward

61,347'10

say I do their *Scheme* any Injustice, when I calculate this Charge at 16*d.* per Anker more. If they do, their own Accounts, (if they keep any,) will convince them of the truth of my assertion. Now this comes to *l.* 3,333. 6. 8. But as this is spent (as say they) upon a set of honest Country Lads, I shall not include it in my calculation: however, can't miss observing that while these labouring Hands and Cattle are employed this Way, they might be employed in something better; and consequently, so much value of their labour is lost to their Country. The above *Sum* being the cost of the *Drink*, let us inquire how it is paid? If by the Bear,

Alas ! Charles's 50,000 Bolls when sold abroad, produces at a *Medium*, in which I have included three Years of extraordinary Sales, only the sum of

20,108 6 8

So that to pay this drink, he must raise out of the other Commodities, or rather, out of the *Cash* of his Country, the sad *Ballance* of

41,239 3 4

61,347 10

Charles and his Advocates must drop this higher *Scheme*, for really it won't do: Let us now suppose, that he imports only for *Dram-drinkers* and the lowest of the People, whom *Whisky* would have served fully as well; and, suppose his Importations to be *Brandy* and *Gin*, half and half. Now,

252,000 Gallons Brandy, at the *Medium* of 26 *d.* per Gallon, costs

27,300

252,000 do. *Gin* at the *med.* of 17. 3*d.* per g.

18,165

604,000

45,465

Add

Add, $\frac{1}{16}$ more, for Leakage, &c. as above	4,546	10	
Freight of 50,400 Ankers, as above	3,333	6	8
Shipping Charges, &c. as above	1,666	13	4
<i>Total Cost</i> , the running Charges not included, must be	55,011	10	-
But the 50,000 Bolls Bear produced only, as above	20,108	6	8
There yet remains a woful Ballance against the Country, of	34,903	3	4
	£. 55,011	10	-

Which Ballance, I'm afraid, comes heavy upon its Guineas and Crown Pieces, for neither *French* nor *Dutch* will take *British* Linen Companies Notes, nor indeed any other Species of our Paper. As we took a dark View of *Albert's Profits*, let us now make some guess at *Charles's*; or, what is the Tax he lays upon his fellow Subjects? It is an established *Rule*, at least be-north *Tay*, that for all bulky smuggled Goods, at the least half a Crown *per Gilder* must be paid, (and as much more as the Seller can get): It really is little enough, all Risques and Charges considered: This is 8 *d.* upon 22 *d.* prime Cost, consequently *l.* 51,225 worth of Liquors, as *per* the first Scheme, must sell at *l.* 18, 628. 3 *s.* advanced Price, which make the total sales to amount to

Now with Charges until unload, they cost him	69,853	3	-
And although I did not state the running Charges in making up his Account against his Country, yet certainly I must state them in making up the Account with himself, because the labouring Assistants must certainly be paid, in one shape or other, and that will cost, as above	61,347	10	-
	3,333	6	8
Remains of neat Profit to <i>Charles</i> <i>quâ</i> Smug-gler	5,172	6	4
	69,853	3	-

A Profit, which no Man, who considers seriously his Risques, will envy him for. The reason of his Conduct the facetious *Horace* gave long ago.

*Impiger extremos curris mercator ad Indos,
Per mare pauperiem fugiens, per saxa, per ignes.*

Anglicè.

« Through Rocks, Excisemen, Perjury and Seas.

If we shall suppose $\frac{1}{10}$ of the above seized, or some casual additional *Charges* incurred, such as E——q——r T——y-ls, additional *Norway* Freights, hiring Knights of the P——t, for there is not a Fisher-man upon all the Coast, but who is perfectly well acquainted with *Samuel Butler's Commentary* upon the 3d *Command*, i. e. Not to take the Name of the Lord in *Vain*. If all these be cast into the Account, it is easy to see where the Ballance will lie.

I had almost forgot that *Charles*, quâ *Corn-merchant*, upon the exportation of 50,000 Bolls Bear, of 32 Scots Pints per Firloft, had received a *national Bounty* of 2 s. 6 d. per Quarter for 36,353 Quarters, 5 Bushels, *Winchester*.

8) 36,363. 5.

£. 4,545. 9. 0. $\frac{3}{4}$ *Sterling* of Publick Money, and, in order to pay him this, I fancy l. 5,000 *Sterling* at least must be levied in some Tax or other from his Fellow-Subjects.

For no Tax-gatherers in this, or in any other *Country* or *System* of *Government*, that ever was, or ever will be, will collect and pay *Publick Money* for nothing; even the Land-tax, the easiest collected of any of them, although it comes neat into the Hands of the General Receiver, yet Collectors, Clerks, &c. are paid by their Country, perhaps in most Counties about 5 per Cent. and all other Taxes in this Country are, and must be, collected at a much greater Proportion of Charge. Indeed some are of Opinion, (and perhaps they have Reason for it) that by means of *Corn debentures* the Land-tax is rather a nominal than a real one, because say they in fundry Years it is paying a *Million* out of the landed Gentlemen's right-side Pocket, and drawing in much the same Sum into the left. Some part of which must necessarily stick to the Fingers through which it passes. But this apart. And,

As we have taken a view of this *Question* politically, let us now view it *physically* and *morally*. In

In the first of which lights, I believe all sober *Physicians* will agree with their esteemed Brethren, *Sydenham* and *Cheyne*, that *Of all Spirits internally used, the weakest are the best*. For this Reason, our own *Whisky*, after it has undergone the last dash of the Retailer, is certainly among the weakest of any kind called by the Name of Spirits ; and to most People, being almost as unpalatable as *Gin*, upon both Accounts it certainly deserves the preference. The *Surgeon* in his dressings, and the *Apothecary* in compounding his Medicines, may still use a little rectified *Brandy*, (Duties paid) for a little will serve them both ; and I heartily wish it was never to be had from any other Hands.

Let us now view this Subject in a moral *Light*, and notwithstanding of what Lord *B——ke* and some other Gentlemen (who give themselves no trouble practically to understand the Subject they write upon, and whose speculative Capacities do not seem much to exceed the common Size) have said, let us, I say, suppose *Albert* and *Charles* both defunct, and standing their Trials at the Bar of *Minos*, both Criminals, but not equally so.

Albert pleads, I had the misfortune to be born in an *Iron Age*, at a Time when my debauched Countrymen would have *Poison* at any Rate, and I served them with my home-brew'd at the cheapest : I in some measure prevented them from sending the little Money they had, to enrich the *Kingdom* of the most potent Enemy of their *Religion* and *Liberties*, instead of which, by paying *l. 18,450 Sterling* yearly, into the Hands of the Governors of my Country, I enabled them to pay nearly a couple of Regiments of Foot for its Defence ; and when my Sons shall have learn'd their Trade better, they will be better able to pay *l. 27,500 per Annum* upon the same consumpt of the Fruits of the Earth. It is true I dealt in *Poison*, for I mean to give the Court no Trouble, so honestly acknowledge it, and having retained my Integrity now to the last ; I shall only beg to take Notice, that I was a convenient, nay a necessary, *Evil* at the worst ; and finally, I cast myself upon your *Worship's* Mercy.

Charles's Indictment was long and a bloody one ; he had not only dealt in *Poison*, but in a foreign and more deadly kind of it, and in doing of which he had annually raised a Tax upon his Fellow Subjects of *l. 5,000* of publick Money at least, at a *Medium* ; and *l. 5,172 6 s. 4 d.* out of the Pockets of his private Friends : He had stript his Country
some

some Years of *l. 40,000 Sterling Value* of its *Commodities* or *Cash* : In his least guilty Years, of about *l. 35,000*, great Part of which he had sent in hard *Cash* to enrich its *Enemies*.

He had poisoned downright a great Number of poor *Industrious Fisher-men* and *Porters*, many more than old *Albert* : He had hackney'd a great Number of otherwise honest *Tars, Fishers, Carters, Porters, &c.* in the damnable Sin of *Perjury* : And finally, had been greatly instrumental in promoting the Interests of *Falshood* and *Deceit* amongst those of his own Size, and the Interests of *Irreligion* and *Vice* in general amongst the lower Part of his *Fellow Subjects*. No Part of which would deny.

Charles in great *Perplexity* applied to his old Friend *Mr. ———*, the *Advocate*, who had sundry Times touched his Money above : He, in a strain of unusual *H——y*, told him that all the Arguments he had formerly used to perplex a Jury with, in the *E——q——r C——b——r* would go for nothing here ; that he was afraid it might go hard with him, and that truly his was an uphill Cause ; that his own Trial was not yet over, which gave him some Concern, for upon a re-consideration finding his own Defence a little knotty, he was not at leisure to think of anothers ; so that *Charles* was obliged to confess the Indictment, which *Judge Minos* had found relevant, &c.

Albert's Case was adjourned to be taken *ad Avisandum*, but the *Ghosts* of an old *E——q——r* Jury, who were that Day on Duty, and to whom *Charles* could have no exception, as they had sundry Times acquit him above, and bore him no prepense Malice ; even they, I'm informed, could not now avoid doing him Justice : Without going out of Court he was cast, and poor *Culprit* was ordered to file off to the Left. But while I am moralizing,

—————*Cyntheus aurem*

Vellit et admonuit. —————

VIRG.

So shall leave any further Reflections of this Nature to be made by a Lord *Hervey*, or a Dr. *Sherlock*. Vide Debates of the Lords upon the *Gin Act*, *Gent. Mag.* 1743, Page 564, &c.

And, the only design of the above is to cast some Light upon the proposed Subject, to show it as it truly appears to me. I shall be much pleased if you will favour me with any Objections that shall be made to any Part of it, either by yourself or others, which, I hope, I shall be able to obviate.

I most respectfully am, &c.

—————, 3d May, 1755.

Dear

Dear Sir :

I Was lately favoured with yours of the 15th instant, by which I find that all the Objections yet made to my Calculations are these,

First, I had charged *Rum* from *Jamaica* at 2 s. 6 d. per Gallon, when at same Time I said it might be procured at 3 s. *Currency*, or about 2 s. *Sterling*. I did so, without taking Notice that I meant the other 6 d. per Gallon, as *Jamaica* Charges, over and above what is paid the Planter, viz. *Freight*, *Primage*, &c. and I believe that such who have dealt that Way will say that I have rather under than over-calculate that *Article*.

Secondly, That I have charged the Grain outwards to the Ports of *Norway*, *Sweden*, &c. with a Freight: Really I could not in Justice do otherwise, but I made it a very moderate one; for all the dealers in *Norwegian* Wood, *Swedish* Iron, &c. inform me that if they make little out, they can make as little home, by these Commodities, (and if they did, these Goods would come so much dearer to their Country) for no Sailors can at present be found who will serve without both *Meat* and *Wages*. I grant a Merchant, Dealer in the *Silks*, *Cottons*, *Teas*, &c. of *India*, *Viâ Gottenburgh*, may agree with a Corn-merchant for a very easy Freight outwards, intending to throw the Charges of a successful Voyage upon the more valuable Returns: But this *Trade* (although less destructive than the Brandy one) yet I doubt, if upon strict Trial, it will be found beneficial to the Country.

Thirdly, The Freight homewards, say the Objectors, is like the running Charges spent amongst ourselves, and finds Bread (and Drink too) to an useful Body of Men, our own brave Sailors. Well, I have granted them one Favour, with a note that it was such, and now they plead a right to have two; but to this I answer, first, it is no material Part of the Dispute whether it be yielded or not: That at present such of our Sailors as are truly brave, have, or are like to have, a brave opportunity of signalizing it in the publick Service of their Country: Many, who are not so, might be usefully employed in trenching Parts of the many Moors, with which it is overspread; and thus make Conquests, which are in no Danger of being yielded up by Treaty: But if such a precise Number of them must be always kept at Sea, let them be employed in *Admiral Vernon's* Herring Project,

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Governor Dobbs' North-West Passage, or in any other Bubble less pernicious than Brandy Smuggling.

Since I first wrote you, I am informed by another very considerable Merchant, who in the Time limited, to my Knowledge, sent his Barley to the Market of *Spain, Portugal, &c.* who assures me that his Sales at a *Medium* did not turn out quite 6 s. 2 d. *per* Boll, instead of 8 s. 1 d. as I have calculate them. Upon that Supposition, which I believe is a true one, you may calculate the great additional national Detriment of that Trade, which some have not only undertaken to defend, but even to cry up, as a beneficial one, to their Country, I mean *the Barter of Bear for Brandy.*

—, 22d May,
1755.

I am, &c.





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